

CASE OF TRYPANOSOMIASIS

BY

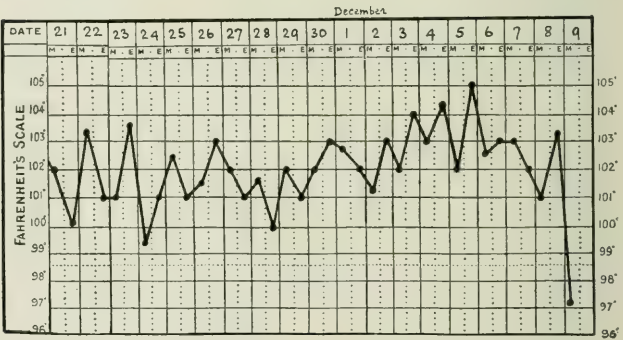
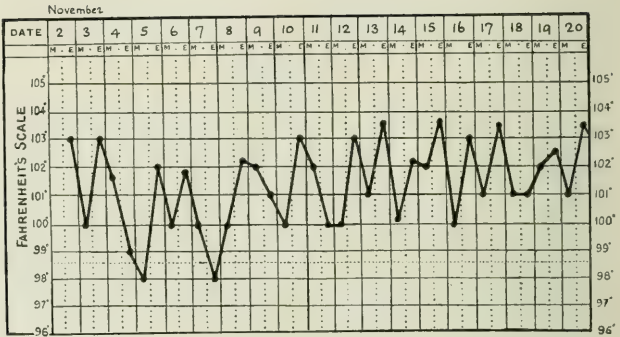
A. J. MACKENZIE, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.)

RHODESIAN MEDICAL SERVICE

(Received for publication 27 November, 1922)

The following notes are published, as the case was one of interest.

The patient, a married European woman about 18 years of age, had, in August, 1919, accompanied her husband on a shooting expedition in a tsetse-fly area in Sebungwe, S. Rhodesia. After she had been on the veldt six or seven weeks she became ill, and was taken to the nearest town and treated for malaria for three weeks. As at the end of this time her condition had not improved, she decided to return to her own home. On admission to hospital on October 31st she was evidently acutely ill, and had a temperature of 102°. She complained of intense headache and severe pain all over the body. The spleen was slightly enlarged, and the posterior cervical glands were also slightly enlarged and tender on pressure. A blood smear taken on admission and stained with Giemsa showed a very severe trypanosome infection. The trypanosome appeared to be *T. brucei* vel *rhodesiense*. Posterior nuclear forms were found in the patient's blood. This diagnosis was confirmed by intraperitoneal inoculation of the patient's blood into a rabbit. Treatment with galyl, soamin and tartar emetic had no effect, and the patient gradually became worse. Hyperaesthesia was a marked feature of the case from the outset. The slightest touch made her cry out with pain. Her mentality changed, and she became childish and played with dolls. About the middle of November she developed keratitis, which affected both eyes. This became worse, and in a fortnight she was almost completely blind. Emaciation was progressive throughout the illness. She gradually sank, and became comatose two days before her death, which occurred on December 9th.



Case of Trypanosomiasis: Chart.